



Groups Sunday - Back To Normal
Pastor Dave Patterson | 02.18.2024

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

*"Revival, which means an awakening, a recovery, a bringing back to life that which was seemingly dead, is a work of God's spirit among His people. But what we currently call revival is simply New Testament Christianity, it's **the saints getting back to normal**"*

- Vance Havner

[Acts 2:44-47]

All the believers were together and had everything in common....

[Acts 2:45]

Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need...

[Acts 2:46]

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

[Acts 2:47]

Praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

[Hebrews 10:24-25]

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

1. Intentional community is the antidote for isolation

(isolation produces eventual devastation)

“Opponents of solitary confinement claim that it is an extreme form of cruel and unusual punishment^[4] because the lack of human contact (and the sensory deprivation) have a severe negative impact that leads to mental illnesses”

"Sin, demands to have a man by himself, it withdraws him from the community. The more isolated a person is the more destructive the power of sin will be over him, and the more deeply he becomes involved in it, the more disastrous is his isolation."
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

[Genesis 2:18]

GOD said, “It’s not good for Man to be alone; I’ll make him a helper, a companion.”

[Genesis 4:16]

So, Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

NOD = wandering in isolation, the land of aimless wandering

2. God-appointed relationships call us out of “the woods” and toward the call of God for our lives.

[1 Samuel 23:15-17]

One day near Horesh, David received the news that Saul was on his way to kill him. So, David hid in the Wilderness of Ziph in a forest. Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God. “Don’t be afraid,” Jonathan reassured him. “My father will never find you! You are going to be the king of Israel, and I will be next to you.

3. Sign up and show up!

Key Points:

1. Intentional community is the antidote for isolation.
2. God-appointed relationships call us out of “the woods” and toward the call of God for our lives.
3. Sign up and show up!

Application for the Week:

This week, take your next step by joining a small group where you can make friends and find your purpose. **Find a group today by clicking [HERE](#).** If you enjoy hosting people, consider becoming a group leader. **Click [HERE](#) for more information.**

Discussion Questions

1. In this season of life, what kind of communities do you, or your family, invest in?
2. What was your first small group’s experience? How did the relationships you formed impact your life?
3. What is the difference between cultural Christianity and Biblical discipleship?
4. Why are public gatherings and in-home meetings equally important to the health of the church?
5. What benefits take place when we commit to living in community?
6. Have you ever experienced isolation? What did it take to break out of it?
7. How can you step it up in your commitment to community?
8. In what ways, has God appointed relationships repeatedly pointed you back to purpose?